

FIRST DUE

April 2007



Franklin County Department of Public Safety
PO Box 189, 1488 Franklin Street, Rocky Mount, VA 24151

Special points of interest:

- * ISO Ratings In
- * FCDPS/NASCAR
- * Intubation
- * Maintenance
- * Advance Skills

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ISO RATINGS RECEIVED

Recently the Insurance Services Organizations were in Franklin County reviewing the Property Protection Classifications of the fire departments. The following departments recently received their scores back. Boones Mill Fire Department received a rating of 6 in town when located within 1000 ft. of a hydrant and an 8B if located in the town limits but more than 1000 ft. from a hydrant, outside the town limits a 6 was given if within 1000 ft. of a hydrant and less than 5 miles from the fire station. Burnt Chimney Fire Department was given a rating of 7 if within 5 miles of the station and a 10 for greater than 5 miles. The Glade Hill Fire Department was awarded a classification of 8B if located less than 5 miles from the

station and a 10 if greater than 5 miles. The Henry Fire Department was given the rating of 9 if within 5 miles of the station and a 10 if greater than 5 miles. Callaway Fire Department received an 8B rating if within 5 miles of the station and a 10 if greater than 5 miles. All the preceding departments were given higher than their previous ratings which will result in major insurance savings to the citizens located in their service areas. Ferrum Fire Department received a 7 if within 1000 ft. of a hydrant and a 9 if within 5 miles of the station, outside the 5 mile limited they were given a 10, this was the same as the previous rating. The other departments ratings should be coming in soon to the administration office. CONGRATULATIONS.



FCDPS and NASCAR

For several years the Henry Fire Department has been working with Martinsville Speedway and NASCAR at all the major NASCAR events in Martinsville. They have used this as one of their major fund raisers over the years by assisting the raceway with

the parking of vehicles on race weekends. After the parking was complete the fire department assist with fire protection for the drivers and race cars on race day. Recently other public safety agencies have assisted Henry County Public Safety with race

day events. Squad 2 and Squad 9 have assisted on race day by providing EMS services to the fans at the NASCAR event. This is a great opportunity for our stations to shine in the NATIONAL spotlight. Keep up the good work.

Advanced EMS Skills

Franklin County Department of Public Safety continues to be on the cutting edge, thanks to Dr. Lane DMD, when it comes to advanced EMS skills. Franklin County providers who have obtained special training above and beyond their normal scope of practice level are allowed to perform the following skills, most of which are very limited in other EMS systems in Virginia. EMS providers are allowed to do adult intraosseous procedures using a device known as an EZ-IO, this is a skill where a needle is inserted by paramedics into the bone. We also utilize

several advanced airways such as the King, Airtrac, and LMA. Along with these airways some medics are allowed to perform rapid sequence intubation (RSI) which is a very advance procedure. Recently selected medics have a spinal immobilization protocol referred to as SMORE in which field evaluations can be made as for the need to apply backboards to certain patients. In April some EMS units will begin using a device known as an impedance threshold device (ITD) which assist in controlling ventilation given to a patient. Recent stu-

dents in Houston Texas showed a 50% increase in survivability of cardiac arrest patients when this device was used. Thanks again to Dr. Lane for allowing us to be in the fore front of EMS.



**"INDIVIDUALS WIN
TROPHIES, TEAMS
WIN
CHAMPIONSHIPS"**

Maintenance Records

The Franklin County Department of Public Safety maintains a database which tracks all maintenance or repairs performed on all public safety vehicles. This database maintains a separate maintenance log for each vehicle. The vehicle maintenance log (VML) we request monthly from the fire and rescue agencies is used to provide the county with details on a vehicles performance. This informa-

tion is very valuable when determining a departments needs for vehicle replacement and aids administration greatly when preparing budgetary needs. The vehicle database also provides administration with information on the cost of certain repairs and the vendor providing the repair service. This maintenance information is important when we need to review a repair service vendor and the cost

incurred by a vendor. In the future there has been talk of a central county garage and by tracking this type of expense it gives us a history of the amount of expenses incurred and shows what, if any, savings could be made with a central repair service. So please continue the great work of submitting ALL maintenance or repairs to administration monthly.

Firehouse Software Upgrade

Franklin County Public Safety began requiring all EMS agencies to utilize Firehouse Reporting Software in 2004 and it was optional for fire companies. As of today ALL agencies use Firehouse with the exception of 2 fire companies. FCDPS utilized the basic version of the software. Beginning in April there will be major upgrades made to the software. We will be switching to the web based enterprise version which will allow for many

more uses of the program and also ease of use. The program will not only be web based which will allow you to utilize the program any time you have an internet connection either hardwire or wireless, but it will also have an interface with the CAD system in the 9-1-1 center which will automatically populate fields such as times, dates, call numbers etc. in the correct fields which will eliminate the provider from having to fill in these fields. We

will also be able to view preplans, diagrams and many other features.



FCDPS Welcomes Adoption Specialist

Public Safety Director Daryl Hatcher has announced that Ms. Faye Hicks will assume responsibilities as Animal Adoption Specialist for Franklin County on March 12, 2007. Ms. Hicks is leaving her current post as the Animal Behaviorist for the Roanoke Valley SPCA and brings a wealth of knowledge and many years of success in terms of building programs to increase adoption. Ms. Hicks has served in the capacity of Animal Behaviorist for the

RVSPCA for three years. A long-time resident of Franklin County, Ms. Hicks and her husband have owned and operated Hicks' All Breed Pet Care, Inc. in Bassett since 1973.

"County staff is excited to bring Ms. Hicks on board to help us achieve our goals of increasing animal adoptions in Franklin County," said Mr. Hatcher. "Many of our volunteers have worked with her in the past and she comes highly recommended by those who know her. I'd like to call

on the community to give her our complete support and make our program as positive as it can be. She will be looking for assistance through those willing to volunteer a few hours a week at the Shelter, donations for special equipment and supplies that will be needed to increase the likelihood of adoption, as well as administrative and grant writing support for adoption programs."

County To Charge For False Fire Alarms

Franklin County Department of Public Safety began in March 2007, operating a cost recovery program for false fire alarms. Franklin County Code section 8.83 states that business and residents are allowed two (2) false fire alarm activations in any calendar year. Once two alarms are exceeded the owner will receive a statement in the amount of \$75.00 per occurrence. The money will be placed in budget for

the responding company. If the owner calls within 2 minutes of the activation it will not be considered an alarm. This ordinance has actually been in place since the mid 1990's but recently there was no tracking system. A plan has now been implemented to track and invoice for these activations. With a new CAD system being planned this will become even easier to track. We hope by implementing

this we will eliminate the number of alarms and unnecessarily placing providers and apparatus on the road.



**"Yesterday is like
a cancelled check
and Tomorrow
like a credit card.
Today is the only
cash you have,
spend it wisely"**

FCDPS Test Voice Over IP Phones

The department of public safety administration offices recently was selected to do a pilot program using voice over IP telephones. This office will be used as a testing grounds for the remaining county administration offices to evaluate the service. The service is expected to result in cost cutting measures for phone service while adding additional features to what staff can do with telephones. The phones are provided by Cisco

Systems and were installed by Franklin County Information Technology Department, Cisco Systems and ESI. County employees on the phone system should be aware that ALL extensions have changed in the public safety office so please be sure to check your extension information before dialing. Please bear with administration as they learn the new phone system which should better serve our customers.





Franklin County Department of Public Safety

PO Box 189
1488 Franklin Street
Rocky Mount, VA 24151
540-483-3091 Phone
540-483-3086 Fax
www.franklincountyva.org

VISION STATEMENT

Franklin County's Department of Public Safety is dedicated to providing emergency services, to include, but not limited to, Fire, EMS, Animal Control and Emergency Management that are, Delivered in a timely and efficient manner by well-trained and dedicated career and volunteer professionals.

We are on the web at
Franklincountyva.org

ENHANCED INTUBATION

There is a great deal of controversy over intubation skills and pre-hospital providers. Even high volume paramedic systems across the country and in Virginia have stopped doing endotracheal intubation in Cardiac Arrest and are placing alternative airways to minimize interruption of CPR. This includes use of the Combitube, as well as some newer devices such as the King airway, instead of endotracheal intubation. If these are the discussions that are taking place at the Paramedic level, then what should we do about the Enhanced level provider. The Enhanced level provider has much less intensive training in airway management and endotracheal

intubation. Therefore, from a Risk Management perspective it is in the best interest of both the patient and the Enhanced provider to DISCONTINUE the practice of pre-hospital intubations by the Enhanced level providers practicing in Franklin County. While the OMD can empathize with the Enhanced level providers, he must continue to be a patient advocate and stress the greater benefits obtained by Good BLS Airway management. Again, BLS airway management includes oxygen administration, bag valve mask ventilation, oral and nasal airway insertion and insertion of a Combitube. We will shortly begin a trial program in the county using the

King airway. If this is successful we may replace the Combitube. If providers have further questions regarding this change, please contact me at charleslane@franklincountyva.org.

